As per the information received from the States/UTs, on implementation of the land ceiling laws, as on 31.12.2008, an area of 69.99 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 61.44 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 49.46 lakh acres has been distributed to 56.37 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 15 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, as on 31.12.2008, 16.67 lakh acres of Boodan land has been distributed to the eligible rural poor.

'Distribution of wasteland to the landless' has been included in the restructured Twenty Point Programme, 2006 (TPP-2006) of the Government of India which became operational on 1.4.2007. As per information received from the States/UTs, 3.04 lakh hectares of wasteland was distributed during 2007-08 and 1.03 lakh hectares during April, 2008 to January, 2009.

As per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has no proposal at present to give lands to the Dalits who participated in Bhoodan Movement. However, 0.54 lakh acres of Bhoodan land has been distributed to 25335 Scheduled Castes and 0.34 lakh acres to 12986 Scheduled Tribes by the Andhra Pradesh Bhoodan Yojana Board. In addition, the State Government has assigned 48.50 lakh acres Government lands to 33.90 lakhs landless poor including Dalits.

Setting up of Haats in Andhra Pradesh

3495. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for setting up Haats in rural areas under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) the total number of village Haats set up in Andhra Pradesh till date under SGSY and the people benefited by these Haats district-wise; and

(c) the total number of new Haats proposed to be opened in the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Ministry of Rural Development has recently issued Guidelines for setting up of Haats are various levels with the objective to create better marketing facilities for the rural poor artisans for selling their products throughout the year. The basic structure/facilities which may be provided at the village haats are open raised platforms/covered platforms, toilets (separate facilities for women and men), during water facility, drains, garbage pits/corner, office blocks, warehouse for storage (small), boundary wall/fence, parking space, etc. The Haats at the District level and in the State capital will have stalls, food courts, ATM centre and dormitory for swarozgaris. 70% of space in these Haats will be allotted to SGSY beneficiaries and 30% of space will be allowed to be given to others who will pay suitable charges/fees. As per the Guidelines, Ministry of Rural Development will provide funds upto Rs. 15 lakhs for creation of Village Haats, upto Rs. 1.5 crores for a district level Haat and upto Rs. 3.00 crores for

a Haat at the State capital. These funds are shared between Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 while in case of Centre and North Eastern States, the funds are shared in the ratio of 90:10.

(b) During the financial year 2008-09, Ministry of Rural Development released funds amounting to Rs. 371.25 lakhs to all 22 DRDAs of Andhra Pradesh for creation of 66 village haats (3 village haats per DRDA) on pilot basis. These village Haats are yet to be set up which are expected to promote marketing of products at village level and will benefit the rural artisans.

(c) No proposal for creation of new Haats has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh this year.

Road connectivity under Bharat Nirman Yojana

3496. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Bharat Nirman Yojana for 2005-2009, the target set for providing road connectivity to 66,900 eligible habitations was later downsized to 59,216 habitations;

(b) whether even this downsized target was not achieved with only 35 per cent of the habitations given road connectivity;

(c) whether due to funds scarcity, Government proposes to adopt private-public partnership for building rural roads;

(d) whether many sugar mills have come up with offers of upgrading rural roads; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) As per data provided by the State Governments, initially 66,802 habitations were identified for providing all weather road connectivity under the rural roads component of Bharat Nirman during 2005-2009. After the initial targets of 66,802 habitations were intimated to the States, ground verification was carried out by the State Governments in order to assess the actual number of habitations eligible for coverage under Bharat Nirman. Based on the ground verification by the State Governments, 54,648 habitations have been identified for provision of road connectivity under Bharat Nirman.

(b) Upto March, 2009, 31924 habitations have been provided road connectivity under Bharat Nirman. As such, 58 percent of eligible habitations have been given road connectivity under Bharat Nirman by March, 2009.

(c) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry to adopt private-public partnership for building rural roads under Bharat Nirman.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of the reply given to (d) above.